

SpeakOut!

March 2018

...ALMOST SPRING...



Take a quick spin with us through what's been happening with SpeakOut! and the Community Literacy Center as we have opened our Spring 2018 season of workshops!



WHAT
YOU'LL
FIND
INSIDE...

- **Solidarity and Solitary**
- **A question about inclusion**
- **Restorative Justice**
- **What is loteria?**
- **Calendar**
- **TED^xCSU**



Spring Training

During SpeakOut! Spring Training 2018, volunteers shared an illuminating evening with Patrycja Humienik of Dances for Solidarity in Denver and Misty Saribal, scholar and activist who co-founded domestic violence and trauma-informed programs in Colorado Women's prisons.

Dances for Solidarity began as a letter writing campaign between artists and activists in New York and incarcerated people in Texas and Louisiana. Each letter initiated with the same 10-step Dance for Solidarity as a means to initiate a conversation around movement. The project has been in correspondence with more than 200 people incarcerated in solitary confinement through its chapters in New York and Denver.

Read more about this organization [here](#), and LIKE their Facebook page. where you can read about an upcoming event on March 16 in Denver: Transcend Punishment, Performances and Conversation.

*Look Into
the Unexpected*



SpeakOut! Journal
Fall 2017

Thoughts from Emmy...

It was brought up in a recent workshop by one of the writers that the volunteers and interns don't publish their own work in the SpeakOut! journal. We talked about this at the intern meeting, discussing the potential benefits, but also the potential implications of putting our own work in a journal that has always been for the writers that participate in the SpeakOut! workshop.

At first review of the matter, I thought, well, why not? We, as facilitators, write, too. If anything, it would show the writers that our roles are similar to theirs in the workshop: that we're there to write. We take on like roles, regardless of where we are or what we're wearing: we're connected by words and the desire to string them together in order to make sense of our feelings, our realities, and our desires. If anything, I thought at first, this would unite our work and show that we take the collaboration with the writers seriously and hope to share in the publishing experience as well.

However, as we all shared our opinions, I could see the potential implications of adding facilitator work to the journal. Would it be self-serving to take up space that could be utilized by someone else? How could we replace someone else's work with a piece of ours instead? If we were to publish our work in the journal, would we put it on our resume? Would people be interested in reading our work? Would we have pen names as well?

But what would that mean to the writers if we didn't put our work in the journal? Would that highlight our differences rather than show how we're united? **I guess after reviewing everything and taking several different perspectives, I feel as though it might be in the best interest of everyone to ask these questions to the writers themselves. Ask for their feedback and their perspectives. What would it mean to them if we did publish our work? And if we didn't? I believe that it's a conversation we would be best to keep on discussing.**

Long-time volunteer/intern Bree Jones works closely with restorative justice principles in her internship with the city of Fort Collins and her academic career. Read what she has to say about this approach where offenders take meaningful responsibility for their actions and victims take an active role in the process. [READ MORE OF HER ARTICLE HERE!](#)

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is an approach to justice that emphasizes repairing any harms that were caused by crime. RJ looks at situations from a perspective of relationships, needs, and responsibilities and views criminal conflict specifically as an injury to personal relationships, not simply the breaking of the law, and holds offenders accountable for the injuries he or she caused to the victims. The victims include the primary victim/victims, the community, and the offenders themselves. In a traditional Restorative Justice Conference the victim, offender, and community sit in a circle, discuss the harm caused, and agree on restorative terms for the offender to complete which go into a contract.





BUENAS!

A national pastime in Mexico, *lotería* is a game like BINGO, except the cards (*tablas*) have pictures instead of numbers. The biggest twist is -- the caller randomly calls out pictures from a deck of cards using a riddle or rhyme. In the traditional game, instead of saying "SUN" the caller might say "The blanket of the poor." Instead of calling "PINE" a rhyme in Spanish rhymes "*Fresco y oloroso, en todo tiempo hermoso,*" or "Fresh and fragrant, beautiful in any season." The winner calls BUENAS! or LOTERIA!

You can find the an authentic Loteria set fresh from Tobi's trip to Yelapa, Mexico.

What creative ways can you think of to use it in your workshops?



We have a donate button!

Here's a quick and easy way to support the writers who benefit from the work of the Community Literacy Center and SpeakOut!

Our sites listed on the last page feature a GIVE button where your friends can give from \$5 to... whatever they can! Feel free to *spread the word* via your social channels.

We can get composition books for a dollar each, a bunch of pens for the same price. You may be surprised to see how your friends WANT to support the work you do for at-risk youth and women and men who are incarcerated.

Click GIVE button above to see what page looks like for a donor.

March

SPRING BREAK!!

(Do I need to tell you those dates?) ;-)

Tentative Friday, March 29

5 to 6:30pm:

Booster training presented by interns Zoe Albrecht and K Kuhn. We'll hold this in Eddy, room TBA. Hope all volunteers can come!

WATCH FOR DOODLE POLL!

what's Happening

what's Happening

Week of April 2-6:

ALL MANUSCRIPTS TO BE
PUBLISHED SHOULD BE IN
GOOGLE DRIVE.

Stay tuned as interns come up with a plan to encourage interaction between writers, lead facilitators and journal editor for a Spring 2018 SpeakOut! Journal with best collaboration possible.

April

May

Final readings for all groups week of May 7.

Be thinking of who you would like to invite -- for jail readings, we need to submit legal name and birthday before event for authorization to enter.

what's Happening

TED^xCSU

March 25, LSC

Interesting talks around -- you might want to bookmark segment by SpeakOut! supporter Amy Hoeven!



Beautifully Broken

By Meggie

In your voice I hear your hurting
Wishing I could take the pain away,
Beautifully broken on the inside.
I see the warmth in your eyes
The kindness in your words and the hope in your
smile
I want you to start to heal
Start mending the pieces like a puzzle,
Beautifully broken on the the inside.
You let people continue to hurt you
You deserve so much better,
Beautifully broken on the inside.

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